



## Lisburn Branch Newsletter



February 2019

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

*An Austrian professor of Social Psychology suggests that thinking about your ancestors gives a stronger sense of identity and therefore self-esteem. Thinking about the challenges that ancestors have faced apparently acts as a spur to your own achievement. I wish I had known that sooner!*

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**Ellis Island Passenger Search** <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>

The initial search on this web site is by name with several options to allow for different spellings etc. The search can then be sorted by arrival date. Other information given is Last Place of Residence/Birth Place and Ship's Name. In order to see the ship's manifest you will have to register but it is **FREE**. Though these records are also on Family Search, if you suspect that your ancestor went to New York, it is a quick way to search for them.

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**Crew list Index Project** [www.crewlist.org.uk](http://www.crewlist.org.uk)

If you are looking for a merchant seaman this is a good site. The period cover is 1861 to 1913

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<https://bespokegenealogy.com/> -Brick Wall Advice.

This was a website that I came to accidentally. I haven't yet explored all it has to offer but one tip I found for breaking down brick walls is called '**alternative scenarios**'. Suppose a BMD record that should exist can't be found. Think of reasons why this might be. For example, a transcription error, the record was lost before it was recorded at the record office (was this possible?), the event took place in another area or country, middle names were recorded as surnames or in the case of a marriage - there wasn't one. Then you have to decide how to prove /disprove each possibility before starting with the easiest until you get an answer. With the James McKinley brick wall, a possible family was found but the first two children did not have the expected forenames. There was a bigger gap between the second and third child, so I wondered if there had been an earlier marriage and this proved to be the case.

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**Monuments in Christ Church Cathedral, Lisburn**

A new self-guided tour leaflet tells the story of some of the most prominent monuments in the building. Highlights include tablets commemorating notable Lisburn soldiers, military families, local women, Huguenots, and prominent personalities from the landlord and art collector Sir Richard Wallace, to Bishop Jeremy Taylor, and R.I.C. District Inspector Swanzy. Free copies of the guide are available in the Cathedral and the Irish Linen Centre.

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**GOOD NEWS** [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) will be adding 2 extra years of certificates very soon!!  
Marriages from 1864 and Deaths from 1878.

Registered Charity Number NIC106071

[www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org)

## Townlands

Knowledge of the townlands where your ancestors lived is an essential piece of information. A useful website for finding townlands is [www.swilson.info](http://www.swilson.info). From the Townland index and database page you can click on [Townland database](#) to search by townland name, using part names, wildcards (\*) and Soundex. Click on [Townland explorer](#) to browse the Townland data by County, Poor Law Union, Barony and Civil Parish. Civil parish boundaries were based on Church of Ireland Parishes. Another website [www.townlands.ie](http://www.townlands.ie) lists counties, baronies within each county, civil parishes in each barony, and townlands in each parish and shows a map of the location. Townland names can also be found by searching for 'Townlands' on the GRONI site. The spelling of the townland name can be variable. If you have found a name on a BMD certificate look for the best fit on the list of townlands in a county or parish. The names may change over time. A townland name may disappear or be split and a prefix or suffix added.

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## Surname Maps of Ireland

There are two sources of surname maps on the web. <https://barrygriffin.com/surname-maps> is FREE and shows the distribution of surnames from the 1901 and 1991 census. [www.johngrenham.com](http://www.johngrenham.com) is a paid site but it has FREE 'limited' access to see surname maps of the censuses, of Griffith's valuation and of births from 1864 - 1913. The maps has a link to the census record and [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) (If you don't get to see the maps, try later).

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## Poor Law Records.

Records which have survived from the 28 Poor Law Unions of NI are held in PRONI. The record books are referenced with the prefix BG/ followed by a number denoting the Poor Law Union. (see Your Family Tree Information Leaflet 13) Some records are also on microfilm prefix MIC15F/. Most are Indoor relief registers dating from the 1840s. Even if your ancestors were not admitted as paupers, there are other records that their names may appear in. If relatives were on the Board of Guardians they will be mentioned in the Minute Books. Your ancestor may have supplied goods to the workhouse or have been an employee. The dispensary system was brought under the control of the Board of Guardians in 1851 and this created a new series of records. Vaccination registers giving the name of the child, the names and addresses of the parents, date of vaccination and age of the child at the time. Some of these registers date back to the 1860s. Registers over 100 years old are open.

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## What's on in February

### Back to Our Past 15 - 16 February at the Waterfront

Register on <https://backtoourpast.ie> for a FREE ticket. Doors open from 10 am. Details of the talks are on the website.

**PRONI Wreck and Rescue Series: Wednesday 27 February 1 pm** *Air Sea Rescue operations off the coast of Ulster* -the start of a series of 6 weekly talks. Further talks are on Lifeboats, Lighthouses, Coastguards and a Wreck in Dundrum Bay in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Clifton House - North Belfast: Bricks & Mortals** Contact: [archive@cliftonbelfast.org.uk](mailto:archive@cliftonbelfast.org.uk)  
Weekly talks from **7 February to 14 March at 7 pm** in Clifton House £5 each. Please book. Subjects are The Big Houses of North Belfast, The McCabe Family of Vicinage, Francis Joseph Biggar, The Spanish Flu Epidemic, Otto Jaffe and 'Paper Boy' a talk by Tony Macaulay  
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